

5/28/99

## FACT SHEET

### **Proposed denial of petition for reconsideration of equipment leak provisions of the Polymers and Resins IV NESHAP applied to PET facilities**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to deny a petition for reconsideration of the equipment leaks provisions of the Group IV Polymers and Resins rule affecting facilities producing polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resins. These provisions address leaks of hazardous air pollutants from components such as pumps, valves, connectors, open ended lines, etc.
- The petition was submitted by two PET producers. EPA is proposing to deny the petition because our analysis of these provisions, based on additional data supplied by the affected industry, indicates that the equipment leak provisions can be reasonably implemented by facilities.
- This action also provides a notice of public hearing and opportunity for public comments. The public hearing, if requested, will be held on the date shown in the Federal Register notice at 9:30. Persons interested in attending the hearing or wishing to present oral testimony should contact Ms. Maria Noell at (919) 541-5607, Organic Chemicals Group (MD-13). If held, the public hearing will take place at the EPA's Office of Administration Auditorium, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

#### **HISTORY**

- On September 12, 1996, EPA issued a regulation to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from thermoplastics production, which affected PET production facilities. These equipment leaks provisions were based upon the provisions of a previously issued regulation, the Hazardous Organic NESHAP, commonly referred to as the HON.
- Subsequent to the issuance of the Group IV Polymers and Resins rule, a petition was submitted to EPA requesting reconsideration of the equipment leaks provisions of the rule affecting PET facilities. A petition requesting judicial review was also filed. The petition was submitted to the EPA by two PET producers requesting reconsideration of the technical basis for estimates of emissions, emission reductions, and costs for equipment leaks emissions control at PET affected sources.
- In August 1997, the petitioners provided new information to support the petitioners' comments made during the public comment period of March 29, 1995, to May 30, 1995. These comments questioned the validity of the EPA's predictions of the costs and cost-effectiveness of the leak detection and repair program. This new information, which EPA did not have prior to issuing the final rule, include data related to emissions and costs. This has led EPA to accept the petitioners' request to reconsider leaks provisions of the rule applicable to PET affected facilities. A second petition was filed subsequently by another PET producer requesting the same relief.

- EPA performed a re-analysis of the costs and emission reductions expected from the equipment leak provisions of the rule. Based on the results of that analysis, EPA believes it is not necessary to change the requirements of the rule and is proposing to deny the petition for reconsideration.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Interested parties with access to the Internet can obtain an electronic copy of the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address:  
*<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>*. For questions concerning this action, contact your EPA Regional Office, or Keith Barnett of EPA's Office of Air Quality, Planning, and Standards at (919) 541-5605.